

REMARKS

SUMMARY

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 13, 14, 16-17 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Accordingly, Claims 1-18 remain pending.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's consideration and acceptance of the drawings filed on January 22.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In "Claim Objections" item 1 / the first paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Claims 16 and 17 because of one informality. The Examiner's recommendations have been adopted and an antecedent basis for "ports" has been incorporated into the independent Claim 14. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 13-15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) for being as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,821,895 to Lin et al. ("Lin"). In response, Claims 1, 8, and 14 have been amended.

Amended Claim 1 recites a necessary feature of "a slurry arm having a nozzle including two or more slurry ports where the slurry arm is adapted to allow simultaneous deposition through the two or more slurry ports, either two or more streams of one slurry solution at two or more flow rates or two or more different slurry solutions onto the polishing pad". Lin fails to teach or suggest such a feature. Lin only discloses that the slurry feed arm may include separate liquid supply tubes to separately provide polishing slurry cleaning or rinsing liquid to the arm for provision to the surface of the polishing pad. (See col. 4, lines 9-13). Thus, Lin fails to teach or suggest a necessary feature of Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is patentable over Lin under 35 USC § 102(e).

Independent Claims 8 and 14 each have substantially the same limitation as described for Claim 1. Thus, for at least the above stated reasons, Claims 8 and 14 are patentable over Lin under 35 USC § 102(e).

Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-18 each depend from independent Claims 1, 8, or 14 incorporating their corresponding limitations. Thus, for at least the above stated reasons, Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-18 are patentable over Lin under 35 USC § 102(e).

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin. Claim 3 depends on Claim 1, incorporating its limitations. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Claim 3 is patentable over Lin.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,843,709, to Crkvenac (“Crkvenac”), in view of Lin. Claims 9-12 depend on Claim 8, incorporating its limitations. Crkvenac fails to remedy the deficiencies of Lin. Namely, Crkvenac fails to teach or suggest of “a slurry arm having a nozzle including two or more slurry ports where the slurry arm is adapted to allow simultaneous deposition through the two or more slurry ports, either two or more streams of one slurry solution at two or more flow rates or two or more different slurry solutions onto the polishing pad”. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Claims 9-12 are patentable over Crkvenac and Lin combined.

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,722,943, to Joslyn (“Joslyn”), in view of Lin. Rejection of Claim 16 has been rendered moot by its cancellation. Claim 17 depends on Claim 14, incorporating its limitations. Joslyn fails to remedy the deficiencies of Lin. Namely, Joslyn fails to teach or suggest of “a slurry arm having a nozzle including two or more slurry ports where the slurry arm is adapted to allow simultaneous deposition through the two or more slurry ports, either two or more streams of one slurry solution at two or more flow rates or two or more different slurry solutions onto the polishing pad”. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Claim 17 is patentable over Joslyn and Lin combined.

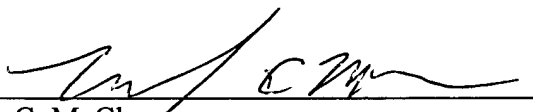
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the remaining claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 and 18 are solicited. As a result of the amendments made herein, Applicant submits that claims 1-15 and 18 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1504. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

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